

Jeff Tang

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Testimony of Jeffrey Tang on February 23, 2023 in support of H.B. 6684

Dear Distinguished Members of the Legislature,

Today I write you in support of H. B. 6684. This bill will have positive effects for Connecticut residents, particularly young people, and have a positive effect on public safety, potentially reducing gun violence. Allowing Connecticut's hopefuls access to Olympic-level equipment will benefit everyone.

As a child, I found unsecured firearms when adults were not present. Thisn could have had a tragic ending, but because I had received education about safe handling and habits regarding firearms, I told a trusted adult about the guns rather than handling them myself.

This is the kind of education that young participants in the shooting sports receive. But if Connecticut athletes cannot access Olympic-level equipment, and are held back by a quirk of the law, our young competitors will give up, or perhaps not even start. They will not develop life-saving habits of safety.

I am a Senior Member at Bridgeport Rifle Club, a club which has sent young athletes to compete in Olympic shooting sports competitions. The youth program at BRC has not only trained Connecticut young people to be top-level competitors, but has instilled in them a deep respect for safety when handling firearms. Looking at the photos and awards on the walls at BRC, I feel a sense of pride knowing that my club trained these exceptional young ladies and gentlemen.

California has, for more than a decade, exempted hundreds of Olympic-class pistols from their Assault Weapons legislation. These pistols have a magazine which attaches outside the grip of the pistol to allow the gripnto be better fitted to the athlete's hand, and to improve the balance. This has been a standard feature of Olympic pistol design for decades. And these pistols are not used by criminals since they are difficult to conceal and only suited to low-power target ammunition.

Please support H. B. 6684, and the safety of Connecticut residents along with it. Thank you for reading my testimony and thank you for the work you do in our government.

Signed 2-22-23, Jeff Tang, Fairfield, CT

